

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT ON VEGETATION.

At a meeting of the Royal Society Dr. C. W. Siemens, F.R.S., gave a detailed description of some experiments which he had conducted which have been conducted during the last two months at his house at Brompton, and exhibited specimens. The method pursued was to plant quick-growing seeds and plants, such as mustard, carrots, radishes, beans, cucumbers, and melons, in pots, and these pots were divided into four groups, one of which was kept entirely in the dark, one was exposed to the influence of the electric light only, one to the influence of daylight only, and one to daylight and electric light in succession. The electric light was applied for six hours each evening—from 5 to 11—and the plants were then left in darkness during the remainder of the night. The general result was that the plants kept entirely in the dark died; those exposed to the electric light only or to daylight only thrived equally well; and those exposed to both day and electric light thrived far better than either the specimens of mustard and of carrots exhibited to the society showing this difference in a very remarkable way. Dr. Siemens only considers himself as just on the threshold of the investigation, but thinks the experiments already made are sufficient to justify the following conclusion—1. That electric light is efficacious in producing chlorophyll in the leaves of plants, and in promoting growth. 2. That an electric centre of light equal to 1,400 candlepower at a distance of two metres from growing plants appeared to be equal in effect to average daylight at this season of the year; but that more powerful effects could be obtained by more powerful light centres. 3. That the carbonic acid and nitrogenous compounds generated in diminutive quantities in the electric arc produce no sensible deleterious effects upon plants enclosed in the glass cases. That plants do not appear to require a period of rest during the 24 hours of the day, but make increased and vigorous progress if subjected during daylight to sunlight and during the night to electric light. 4. That the cultivation of plants in powerful electric arcs can be made available to counteract the effect of night frost, and is likely to promote the setting and ripening of fruit in the open air. 5. That while the influence of electric light plants can maintain increased store heat without wilting, a circumstance favourable to forcing by electric light. 7. That the expense of electric horticulture depends mainly upon the cost of mechanical energy, and is very moderate where natural sources of such energy, such as waterfalls, can be made available. The paper gave rise to a highly interesting discussion, in which it was pointed out that the evidence afforded of the practical identity of the spectrum of solar and electric light, besides the probability that it would be turned to immediate account by horticulturists, would afford great facilities for the investigation of the influence of the forces exerted by light, as compared with other agencies, in promoting the formation of the active principles or most valuable constituents of plants, such as the gums of the cinchona bark, the gluten of wheat, and so forth. Dr. Siemens placed a pot of budding tulips in the full brightness of an electric lamp in the meeting-room, and in about 40 minutes the buds had expanded into full bloom.—*Times*.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

WEDNESDAY, 14th April.

Ships last night, sales of cotton at \$565 to \$575, and of Bantans at \$174 to \$220. The maximum rates were for select cases.

EXPORT CARGO.

Per steamship *Arcturion*, for Continent—1,332 bales silk, 213 bales worsted, 8 bales cotton, 38 cases silk, 400 boxes tea, 50 cases staraised, 10 cases assaied oil, 82 cases sundries. For London—74 bales silk, 72 cases tea, 15,100 boxes tea, and 34 cases sundries.

ON LONDON.

Bank Bills, on demand—3/9d. Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight—3/9d. Bank Bills, at 6 months' sight—3/9d. Credits, at 4 months' sight—3/9d. Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight—3/9d.

ON BOMBAY.—Bank, 3 days' sight—224. ON CALCUTTA.—Bank, 3 days' sight—224. ON SHANGHAI.

Bank, 3 days' sight—73. Private, 30 days' sight—73.

SHARBA.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—55 per cent. premium.

Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$1,450 per share.

China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$1,450 per share.

North China Insurance—The 1,150 per share.

Yangtze Insurance Association—The 735 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company—\$300 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$225 per share.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$225 per share.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—The 138 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—6 per cent. premium.

Hongkong Canton and Shanghai Co's Shares—325 per share.

Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—The 8 per share.

China Coast Steam Navigation Company—The 107 per share.

Chinese Gas Company's Shares—\$75 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$85 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$160 per share.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874—Nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1877—Nominal.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

(From Messrs. FAIRBANKS & CO'S REGISTER.)

At 10 A.M.

Barometer—30.00. Thermometer—60.00.

Thermometer—60.00. Barometer—30.00.

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INSURANCES.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Underwritten, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES on all kinds of property.

MELCHERS & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1876.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE Underwritten, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES on all kinds of property, subject to a Bonus of 20 per cent.

SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1872.

STANDARD FIRE OFFICE, LONDON.

THE Underwritten, having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE to the extent of \$40,000 on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

VOGEL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1873.

SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

INSURANCES against FIRE granted at Current Rates. Capital and Reserve in Excess of £1,000,000.

METZGER & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 3rd June, 1873.

SUN FIRE OFFICE.

THE Underwritten are prepared to Grant Policies against FIRE to the extent of \$50,000 on First-class Risks.

LIENSTEAD & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 1st June, 1873.

THE DUTCH-INDIAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Underwritten, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 14th August, 1873.

GERMAN LLOYD MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Underwritten, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 6th February, 1873.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the current local rates of Premium will be allowed upon Insurances effected with this Office.

DOUGLAS LAIRDALE & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 27th June, 1872.

NOTICE.

THE Underwritten have been appointed AGENTS to the NEW YORK BOARD of UNDERWRITERS.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1873.

RECORD OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN SHIPPING.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1873.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

NOTICE.

POLICIES granted at current rates on Marine Risks to all parts of the World.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th December, 1873.

GUARDIAN FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1821.

STANDARD CAPITAL—\$2,000,000.

TOTAL FUNDS—\$2,000,000.

TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME—\$2,000,000.

THE Underwritten, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, and Fookchow, are prepared to issue POLICIES of INSURANCE against FIRE on all kinds of property.

BIRLEY & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1880.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY—£1,000,000.

ON WHICH IS PAID UP—£100,000.

RESERVE FUND—£120,000.

ANNUAL INCOME—£250,000.

THE Underwritten have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Fookchow, Shanghai, and Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at Current Rates.

HOLIDAY, WISE & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th October, 1884.

VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.

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VES

Royale if he were in Paris, or the Carle in
la Méditerranée at Nice—and brace his nerve

ROYALE if he were in Paris, or the Palace of the Medici in Florence, or the Vatican in Rome, or in the Mediterranean Nice—and that he was not to be taken with a few gamins of court—another of his objects of reading, newspaper, even the *Figaro*—he would call it. He reminded him so disagreeably that he was the subject of a troubled empire, where all things were going wrong; and, of the whole, he would have been well pleased if he could have divested himself of the nationality altogether and become a cosmopolitan character as a good citizen of Europe. His duties, and his wealth have duties, and on day Count Runcif was reminded of this fact by a Russian Grand Duke when he encountered at the Embassy. Said His Imperial Highness rather sternly to the Count: "You are decreed us a altogether, Runcif? It seems to me that at a crisis like the present, you need not be so devoted to Russia, the presence of a man devoted to the throne. If the noble and brave leave us, what are we to do?" Count Runcif bowed, reddening, and stated merely something about the bad state of his health; but thereupon the Grand Duke said: "Take care; those who are so devoted to us run the risk of being looked against us in the hour of our clincher; the wretched Count took it to mean that some of the enemies he had left behind him might avail their selves of his absence to accuse him of Nihilism and get his lands confiscated." The same night he informed his wife that he thought it would be better for them to return to St. Petersburg and keep open house there just for a few months. They might give a few parties, attend the Court receptions, offer their services to the persons in power—in fact, show that they were real skulkers but true Russians, having none of the plaintive opinions: Countess Runcif was a right plain sight at the thought of leaving St. Petersburg she recognized the expediency of taking this painful step, and so gave orders to her maid to pack. A week later the whole of the Runcif household had returned with bag and baggage to their magnificent palace on the Neva; and the Count, proceeding on aggressive measures, commenced his new campaign in the cause of order, and the grand dinners, while caused it to be announced in the papers that she would be at home to her friends every Sunday and Thursday afternoon for the remainder of the winter season.

But, alas! St. Petersburg had not changed for the better since Count Runcif had left it. The Countess, who had come home for a friend's affair. Some of the Count's friends seemed to eye him askance as if suspected him of harbouring treasonable project; others told him frankly that there was a rumour to the effect that he had been "ordered" back to Russia and was practically a hostage for the good behaviour of some other high society cousin, who was now being brewing treason in Cherson. When the Count had contradicted this statement he was told of another report to the effect that he was acting for the police as a high-society spy, and that the police who came to his balls would only do so out of fear of being noticed in his drawing room if he did not. "What," he added this information, "I myself depend upon it that if you are a spy yourself there will be plenty of opportunity for you to pick up the stray words of my guests and to watch you." Count Runcif shrugged his shoulders; but when his ball came off he could not help noticing everybody eyed everybody with suspicious countenance. "What," he could scarcely be blamed because this person dreaded to be promised if he or she had that other for a vis. Ladies rendered scared by the doings of the settees, alleging that dancing men were heads afo, and crowds of young men idly against the walls, under the eyes of the police. On the morning of this festivity, when he was asked whether it was worth his while to go through the far from giving another ball, he was sent for by a high official of the police department, who said benevolently to him, "We state that you mean well, Count, and that your intention of letting your guests have a

sons named on this paper to meet

sue named on this paper to meet your roof." Here the official handed the complaisant Count a list of names two feet long. "And now," added he, "I will give you some advice regarding loyalty, which I think will furnish you with particulars about the occupations, real estate, style of living, acquaintanceships, conversations of the Russians who were sitting in Paris at the same time as you were sitting in London." He took up his pen and wrote:

"Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., in relation to the subject of the above-mentioned matter.
In reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. Smith."
The count then turned to the door and said, "I will take my note-book, and call at Mr. Laurence's."

As he was about to go out of the room, he saw a white cat turn up, and drove it away with his foot. "What a queer feeling as if there were more profound happiness on earth before him. This morning he had been told by a friend who opened a few weeks ago; and now this porpoised boyard desires advice. How can I know whether he shall sit down and await his fate, whether he may stay here or go home? Shall I sit down to tea soon as the thaw begins and let him come quietly off the rug, just to escape from the boredom of a Russian gentleman's life short and easy process?"—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

A DAY WITH THE MARQUIS
LORNE.
My first duty was to announce my

A DAY WITH THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

My first duty was to announce my arrival in Ottawa, and, after the harmless morning wash, I chartered a sleigh, all scarlet cloth and bearskin, and spun through the two miles of snow-drifts which surround the city, to the Rideau Hall, the official residence of John Douglas Stuart Campbell, Marquis of Lorne, Lord Lewis General and General Governor of the Province of Canada. The viceregal door does not by any means lordly dwelling being a low, wide extending private house with two wings, one of which reaches across the front of the little chapel, the other housing an undeniable coupson of a house—Rideau Hall was originally the late Hon. Thomas McKay, and after the river and falls in its vicinity the estate, with about seventy-seven acres, was leased to the Government of Ontario, 1867, at \$100,000 per annum, although its property cost, without ornament over \$80,000. These investments consisted of new buildings, conservatory, laundry, winter carriage-house, house, ice-house, stables, &c. The Marquis purchased the property in 1912 for \$150,000. Since that time it has cost \$153,000 have been expended in improvements, \$25,000 repairs. The Hall rounded by thirty-five acres of arid land outside grounds, which, on the occasion visit were "ensnoured in snow." The Marquis of Lorne seated at a cabinet desk close to the study, a buffalo robe embroidering his chair back, he greeted me with a dog collar, a brown scarf, a blue Astrachan collar and cuffs, and a black silk after the fashion of a jacket. His trousers were of light blue faced, with yellow tops and humber soles. He wore no ornaments, massive gold watch-chain, his chain of office, a massive gold ring, came to Canada." He cheerfully escorted me to his chair, he advanced me with extended hand.

Let me describe the Governor-General's study. The apartment is evenly proportioned and lighted by two large windows given upon the skating rink. The gallery is a fine room in grey stone. Beamed-oak, covered with ferns, green in English, and brass fitted to white marble, surrounded by a mirror either side of the mantle comes through the heads of bronze Monarchs on either side of the mirror the

[illegible]

WOOLLEN-G

[illegible]

	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINA- TION.
				YOKOHAMA.	
12	Clemmishaw	Brit. bk	803	Simon Evers & Co	
13	Pain	Amer. sh	1300	Macarthur, Ball & Co	
26	James	Brit. bk	891	Mollison, Fraser & Co	
27	Wilson	Dut. sch	25	Hebbluis & Co	
28	Lehard	Amer. sch	83	Wahk, Hall & Co	
31	Lowell	Amer. sh	1200	Peason, Low & Co	
1	Jones	Brit. bk	847	Wahk, Hall & Co	
1	Jansen	Rus. sch	55	Kassian Conant	
27	Isaoyasu	Rus. sch	49	H. Cook	
28	Minnie	Rus. sch	72	Wahk, Hall & Co	
19	Thompson	Brit. bk	638	L. Knutler & Co	
				MANILA.	
				IN PORT ON 2ED APRIL, 1880.	
12	Boumer	Brit. bk	765	Smith, Ball & Co	U. States
13	Phillips	Ger. bk	896	Smith, Ball & Co	England
26	Cresmer	Brit. bk	354	F. Eldhardson & Co	England
28	Leclerc	Amer. sh	1244	Martin, Dyce & Co	New York
28	Ströter	Amer. sh	1331	Smith, Ball & Co	New York
1	Mallit	Brit. bk	1243	Smith, Ball & Co	England
1	Reitmann	Ger. bk	1243	Peels, Humbel & Co	New York
1		Ger. bk	833	E. Klopfer & Co	Belle Island
1		Amer. bk	539	Capitan	
15	Ugarda	Span. bk	373	W. P. Stevenson	Melbourne
1	Frindleyson	Brit. bk	5	W. P. Stevenson	London
23	Hollova	Ger. bk	483	O. Heibsen & Co	Belle Island
14	Averill	Amer. bk	468	Capitan	
1	Canus	Span. bg	274	Capitan	
				SAIGON.	
				IN PORT ON 20TH MARCH, 1880.	
	Croix	Fran. bk	494	Capitan	
	Chiffaux	Ger. bk	463	Capitan	
	Geneserich	Ger. bk	1725	Capitan	
	Jessen	Ger. bk	485	Capitan	
				BANGKOK.	
				IN PORT ON 27TH MARCH, 1880.	
6	Schulzaker	Siam. bk	260	Chinese	
7	Robinson	Brit. sch	108	Chinese	
18	Laage	Siam. bk	358	Foh Sang	
18	Dehlfeldsen	Siam. bk	775	Chinese	
6	Dehlfeldsen	Siam. bk	330	Chinese	
17	Bewandt	Brit. bk	335	A. M. & Co	
5	Conception	Siam. bk	350	Chinese	
8	Kosfeld	Siam. bk	395	Chinese	
15		Siam. bk	340	Chinese	
9	Osten	Siam. sh	340	Chinese	

CHURCH	W.B.	CAPTAIN	WILSON
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NAME.					
Librosa	steam sloop	4	120	Com. Errington	Ringsara
Ala-yala	steam corvette	17	400	Captain Hutham	Rongkong
Ala-yala	steam sloop	4	120	Com. A. L. Douglas	Bangkok
Ala-yala	steam corvette	14	350	Capt. Hon. A. Donkin	Hongkong
Ala-yala	steam corvette	4	120	Com. A. F. C. Blair	Hongkong
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	470	Lieut. Com. W. Newell	Enroute to S'p
Ala-yala	gunboat	4	100	Com. S. H. Rickman	Enroute to S'p
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	120	Com. J. S. Eaton	Singapore
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	100	Captain H. F. Cleveland	Bangkok
Ala-yala	double-screw iron frigate	14	800	Com. W. G. Scott	Tientsin
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	100	Com. S. Grove	Shanghai
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	3	95	Captain R. R. Rogers	Enroute to H'k
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	120		Yokohama
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	120	Captain J. G. Mead	Tientsin
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	120	Lieut. Com. W. Carey	Changhai
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	90	Lieut. Com. G. D. Grey	Changhai
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	90	Com. Hon. M. N. S. Hood	Changhai
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	857	Lieut. Com. M. Briggs	Yokohama
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	857	Lieut. Com. O. T. Lee	Kobe
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	4	857	Capt. P. Aldrich	Hongkong
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	20	—	Commander T. E. Smith	Shanghai
Ala-yala	double-screw gun-vessel	2	250	Lieut. Com. Amesley	Shanghai

NAME	DATE	HP	CAPTAIN	WHERE
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Libreville	Russian gunboat	7	800	Captain Sobhan	Yokohama
Alert	American corvette	7	800	Commander Huntington	Yokohama
Albatross	American corvette	6	700	Commander Johnston	Shanghai
	Russian corvette	—	—	Captain Amorf	De route 10
	French corvette	10	450	Captain Michals	Tientsin
Chaplains	German gunboat	8	250	Lieut. Com. Schalkmann	Hongkong
Chlopa	Russian gunboat	—	—	Commander Litron	Hongkong
Orkney	Russian transport	—	—	Captain Koloban	Nagasaki
Chlopa	Russian gunboat	7	800	Commander Stark	Yokohama
Kerguelen	French frigate	4	310	Captain Mathison	Shanghai
Leulie	Russian corvette	4	230	Commander Scherling	Shanghai
Lyons	French gunboat	3	220	Commander Fournier	Hongkong
Marques del D.	Russian despatch boat	3	200	Don Lobe	De route 10
Offian	Spanish ironclad	8	700	Captain P. Nasimoff	Shanghai
Monocory	Russian gunboat	7	800	Commander Sumner	Shanghai
Nesadok	Russian gunboat	7	800	Commander Tatarnoff	Shanghai
Norpe	Russian gunboat	7	800	Captain Kologov	De route 10
Palao	Russian corvette	7	800	Commander Valerent	Vladivostok
Palao	Russian gunboat	6	200	Lieut. Commander Green	Shanghai
Admiral	American gunboat	12	400	Captain Maclean	De route 10
Rasbnyk	Russian corvette	11	—	Captain Benham	Shanghai
Rasbnyk	American frigate	7	80	Commander Boyle	Shanghai
Rasbnyk	Russian corvette	3	100	Lieut. Com. Guimaraes	Shanghai
Tejo	Russian corvette	3	100	Captain Alerice	Shanghai
Themia	Portuguese gunboat	1	1000	Captain Cromwell	De route 10
Thierdorge	American frigate	4	340	Commander Hook	Nanki chook
Thierdorge	Russian gunboat	4	340	Commander Beck	Shanghai
Wail	German gunboat	4	340	Lieut. Com. de Gones	Chikung

ER FID	GUNS	TONS	H.P.	COMMANDER.	STATION
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An-lin	Viceroy's gunboat	1	290	75	J. Godall	Tung-king Gulf
Ao-hing	Revenue cruiser	1	30	"	"	Swatow
Chia-to	Viceroy's gunboat	2	280	75	J. Stewart	Caping-moon
Chia-tai	Revenue cruiser	3	60	30	"	Fishing boats
Chong-waa	Revenue cruiser	2	30	30	"	Canton River
Ching-on	Viceroy's gunboat	2	30	30	"	Tak-hoi
Ching-tang	Viceroy's gunboat	1	150	40	Chinese Admiral	Bogue Forts
Ching-dao	Viceroy's gunboat	3	160	40	Ching	Bogue Forts
Ching-shue	Viceroy's gunboat	3	160	40	Chun-ch'ui	Bogue Forts
Ching-tung	Revenue cruiser	3	160	40	H. H. Palmer	Bogue Forts
Peng-shan	Revenue cruiser	4	130	40	F. B. Wade	Bogue Forts
Qing-chi	Viceroy's gun boat	4	180	60	J. Caldwell	Ching-chow
Sai-chi	Revenue cruiser	4	180	60	D. Reed	Hail-ling Shan
Sun-tung	Revenue cruiser	4	90	20	"	Canton River

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